巨虫列島

きょちゅうれっとう

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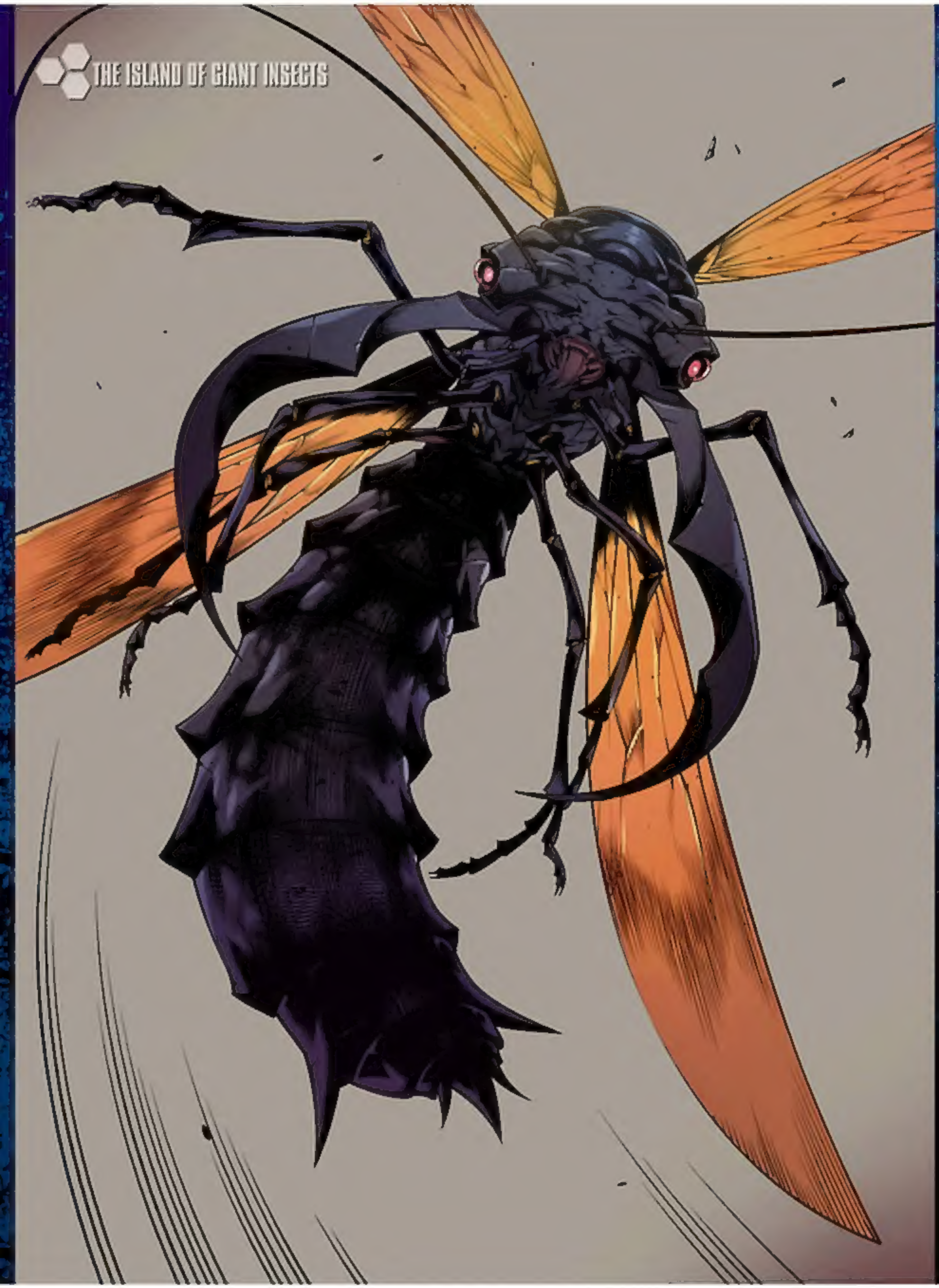
原作 藤見泰高

漫画 REDICE

Champion RED Comics

RED

THE ISLAND OF GIANT INSECTS


THE ISLAND OF GIANT INSECTS

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実在の個人・団体・事件等には
一切関係ありません。

巨虫列島

きょちゅうれっとう

前巻まで

修学旅行中に旅客機が墜落し、孤島に漂着した女子高生・織部睦美。
再会したクラスメイトと共に救助を待とうとするが、その島は巨大昆虫の巣窟と化していた。持ち前の昆虫の知識を活かして、ジガバチから親友の千歳を救い出した睦美は、応急処置のために島の医療施設へと向かう。

CHAPTER 5: THE FACILITY - PART 1

WHAT! IT'S STILL DARK !?

MUTSUMI AND THE OTHERS ONCE AGAIN HEAD TOWARD THE MEDICAL FACILITY !!

IF WE MOVE NOW, WE HAVE A CHANCE!

I'M EXHAUSTED. I NEED TO LAY DOWN FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

2

YESTERDAY, WE WERE ATTACKED BY SWALLOWTAILS AND WASPS WHO WON'T BE ACTIVE UNTIL THEIR BODIES ARE WARMED BY SUNLIGHT!

BECAUSE THE NOCTURNAL INSECTS WILL BEGIN TO LOWER THEIR MOVEMENTS TOGETHER WITH THE MORNING SUN...

SINCE WE'LL BE USING THE PAVED ROAD, COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST BE GRATEFUL ?

AKIRA WON'T BE ABLE TO ENDURE MUCH MORE OF THIS, YOU KNOW !!

IF WE MOVE NOW, WE CAN GET TO THE MEDICAL FACILITY USING THE PAVED ROAD !!

.....

TCH.

EVEN I WOULD DO THAT IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, SO IT'S A GOOD THING THAT WE ALL DIDN'T ABANDON EACH OTHER THEN, ISN'T IT?

IF WE WERE FORCED INTO OUR CURRENT SITUATION, WE ALL WOULD BE GIVING PRIORITY TO OURSELVES, RIGHT?

ABOUT YOUR TALK YESTERDAY, MUTSUMI, I ALSO HAD THE SAME OPINION.

バッ バッ
サッ サッ

OK! OK!!

I... I DIDN'T SAY ANYONE WAS PLANNING ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

SFX: SLAM BANG, RUSTLE RUSTLE

SFX: HA HA HA

EEK!

!!

4

BE QUIET!!

THE INSECTS AREN'T GONNA COME OUT, ARE THEY!?

WH... WHAT'S IT THIS TIME?

*THIS STORY IS FICTION.
IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

A SOUND THAT LARGE COULD ONLY HAVE COME FROM SOME KIND OF HUGE FLYING INSECT...

IF YOU SENSE SOMETHING STRANGE, PLEASE POINT YOUR TORCH TOWARD IT.

IT'S OKAY. I'M HERE...

PHEW.

WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW...

LET'S HURRY.

SFX SNUGGLE SNUGGLE

SIGN: SHINMEI PHARMACEUTICALS MEDICAL CENTER

シンメイ製薬
メディカルセンター

HEH HEH HEH...

IT WAS EASY TO ARRIVE WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY INSECTS, WASN'T IT!?

WOAH... THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CLINIC OF THIS ISLAND THAN I HAD IMAGINED.

IT'S LIKE A TOWN OF HOSPITALS! WE'LL BE SAFE HERE, WON'T WE!!?

!!

SFX: CLATTER CLATTER

ガチャ

ガチャ

ガチャ

SFX: CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER

AH HH HH !

!?

GAA AHHH !?

ガチャ

SFX: KER-CHAK

THE INSECTS WOULD BE ABLE TO GET IN IF YOU SMASHED IT, YOU KNOW!

THAT WINDOW OVER THERE WAS OPEN.

HOW DID YOU GET IN!?

I DON'T SENSE THE PRESENCE OF ANIMALS IN THE AREA AT ALL.

.....

.....

WEREN'T YOU WORRIED SOMETHING COULD BE IN THERE !?

PLEASE !!

STOP THAT. WE NEED TO SEARCH FOR THINGS THAT WE NEED NOW!!

SFX: DASH, TAP TAP TAP

THAT'S A BIG WATER TANK ...

WE GOTTA SAVE AKIRA! WHAT DO I DO!? TELL ME, QUICKLY !!

I WONDER WHAT WAS PUT IN IT?

FIRST, PLEASE LOOK FOR SALINE SO THAT WE CAN WEAKEN THE AMMOPHILA'S POISON IN ORDER TO EJECTION IT OUTSIDE THE BODY !

THERE SHOULD BE SOME IN THE MEDICINE ROOM OR THE TREATMENT ROOM.

AKIRA, HOLD ON !!

タッタッタッ

SFX: DASH, TAP TAP TAP

YES.

WILL SALINE SOLUTION BE WRITTEN ON IT?

YOU ARE WORKING, AREN'T YOU...

BATTERY, MY LOVE ....

HEH HEH... THERE IT IS.

SFX CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK

IF IT'S NOT CONNECTING TO THE NET, WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?

TCH...

ガチッ

SFX: KER-CHAK

ANY BUGS IN HERE?

SFX: POP

SFX: SHINING

I'M OKAY.

SFX: TAP

!?

IT'S SALINE SOLU-TION! SALINE SOLU-TION !!

Saline Solution
生理食塩水

HEY! BUG GIRL !!

SFX: CRACK-LING

CHITOSE... JUST A LITTLE LONGER, OKAY?

キン

キン

SFX: SNUGGLE XZ 15

SINCE WE HAVEN'T ACTUALLY PUT HIM ON DRIP, I CAN'T SUCCESS-FULLY STAB HIS BLOOD VESSEL...

I KNOW WHAT TO DO, BUT...

HURRY UP, WILL YA !!

CA... CAN I BE HER REPLACE-MENT....

YOU BAS-TARD !

TCH! YOU'RE USELESS, GIRL, YOU KNOW THAT !!?

MY GRAND-MOTHER HAS DIABETES IN MY HOUSE ...

SO I HAVE GAVE INJECTIONS INTO HER BLOOD VESSELS MANY TIMES ....

CAN I DO IT!?

TCH... IS IT BRIGHT OUTSIDE YET ?

COULDN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE CHEERFUL ?

HOW DID YOU TURN THE LIGHTS ON?

!!

SFX: SH NE SHINE

SHIRA-KAWA! THANK YOU !!

TO THINK YOU WERE ABLE TO DO THAT WITHOUT PROB-LEMS.

THERE WAS A PRIVATE POWER GENERATOR SYSTEM IN THE BASE-MENT, SO I TURNED IT ON.

YOU'RE USEFUL, YOU KNOW THAT !!?

I'M HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU?

SFX: CRUNCH

SFX: CRUNCH CRUNCH

WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD AND GENERATOR FUEL TO LAST US UNTIL HELP COMES TWO DAYS FROM NOW.

IT'S OKAY. WE'LL BE FINE!

SHOULDN'T WE STOP NOW? WE HAVE TO EAT PREMED-ITATEDLY.

WE'RE SAVED, AKIRA !!

THIS PLACE DOES SEEM TO BE QUITE STURDY... WE'RE SAVED.

ALL RIGHT! NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO BE TAUGHT ABOUT NSECTS ANYMORE, RIGHT?

AND SINCE THERE ARE COUNTLESS EMPTY BEDS ON THE 2ND FLOOR, SHOULDN'T WE LIVE UP THERE UNTIL HELP ARRIVES ?

IS THERE NOT A SINGLE MEMBER OF STAFF REMAIN-ING AT ALL?

IF WE ARE SAFE HERE, WHY IS THAT...

.....

HEY, DOES THIS PLACE HAVE A BATH?

EVEN THOUGH THERE IS BOTH FOOD AND ELEC-TRICITY ....

1 hour later.

AKIRA! AKIRA!! CAN YOU HEAR ME !?

AKIRA'S EYES MOVED.

44 ...

CHITOSE ...

20

!!?

IT'S THAT BUZZ-ING FROM OUTSIDE AGAIN ?

SFX: SLAM X2
RUMBLE X2
RUSTLE X2

SFX: SQ-SQUEEZE

SFX: URRGH

!?

スタッ

SFX: STANDS UP

WHAT'S WRONG, AKIRA !?

4GAH GAH GAH GAH GAH GAH

SFX: FWWSHHH

SFX: SQUISH

ARO ARO PAA !

SFX: TOTAL WRECK

AKI-
RA
!!

ЧЕ
RO
Р А
АА
АА
!

23

カッ

ЧЕ
RO
Р А
АА
!

カッ

SFX: CLACK

SFX: CLACK CLACK

SFX: FLSHAA

PLEASE, LOOK AT HIS EYES! AKIRA'S BEEN IN-FESTED WITH A PARASITE!

A PARA SITE !?

THE PARASITE, "LEUCO-CHLO-RIDIUM".

Leucochloridium

A parasitic worm that is a parasite to the antenna of snails that governs actions of the brain. Its objective is to be preyed upon by its final host, the bird.

UE RO PA AA !

AKIRA, WHAT'S WRONG!? PLEASE, COME DOWN !!

UE RO P A AA !

YOU RUN! I'M GOING TO SAVE AKIRA !!

EV- ERY- ONE, RUN !!

IT'S SOME KIND OF PREDATOR CALL !

UE RO P A AA!

SFX: WHOOSH

25

A PROTO- HERMES GRAN- DIS !!?

SFX: BAM X2
GROWL X2
RUSTLE X2

SFX: FWOOSH

After having become an adult by eating meat as a larva, it lives mainly on sap with high protein such as oak, but also preys on woodlice and sometimes sips body fluids. It is famous for its aggressiveness, and also attacking pupa.

IT'S AIMING FOR OUR BODY FLUIDS! EVERY-ONE, RUN !!

Protohermes grandis
Megaloptera Order, Corydalidae Family
Unidentified Subspecies

SFX: RUMBLE

IT'S AL-READY TOO LATE !

AKI-RA, AA-!!

HE RO A AA !

◆A HUGE PROTOHERMES GRANDIS APPROACHES!

CHAPTER 5: THE FACILITY - PART 2

SFX: CRUNCH

AKI-RA...

!!

A...
AH...

SFX: SLAP

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE !!

SFX: DASH

RIG HT!

CAPTAIN! WE NEED TO GET INSIDE !

*THIS STORY IS FICTION.
IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

SFX: SLAP

SFX: FWISH

SFX: KER-CHAK

SFX: CLANG

SFX: CLANG

SFX: CLANG

OPEN UP!

!!

SFX: THUD THUD

!!

IT'S LOCK-ED!

IT WON'T OPEN!

ガチャ

ガチャン

SFX: KER-CHAK X2

4

HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT BEING CON-TROLLED BY PARASITES, TOO!!?

SHUT UP... THINK ABOUT THE SITUA-TION.

SFX SPLAT

!!

N...

NO OO OO OO !!!

AKI RA AA!

HO OO OO!

SFX: TWITCH

FUU UU CK!

DAMN It!

WA HA HA HA.

?

SFX: TAP TAP

HUH ?

HUH ?

MUTSUMI... WHERE'S MUTSUMI !?

!!

IF YOU MEAN THAT BUG GIRL, SHE'S BEING EATEN OUTSIDE.

MUTSUMI WOULD NEVER GET EATEN BY AN INSECT !!

LIER !

CLASS REP...

SINCE YOU'RE USEFUL. WE WON'T ABANDON YOU. BUT...

LET'S ESCAPE FROM THIS ISLAND WITH JUST THE 3 OF US. I HEARD THE LEADER SAY THAT QUITE LEVELHEADEDLY.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MORE FRIENDS.

STOP !!!

STOP IT!

SINCE THERE COULD BE PARASITES ON STRANGE INSECTS LIKE WITH AKIRA, I'VE GOT TO SEARCH YOU UNTIL THE BACK OF YOUR CUNT.

MUT-SUMI! MUT-SUMI, HELP !

NO OOO!
SFX RUSTLE RUSTLE
SFX THUMP
SFX: HAA
SFX: HAA HAA
SFX: THUD

SFX: FSHHHH

SFX: THUD

DAMN IT!

SFX: FSHHHH

SFX: FWOOSH

HOW ...

WHAT !?

SFX:
FW P

THIS CAN'T BE REAL...

SFX:
SQUEEZE

GU
HH

SFX: SPLASH

E,
EEK
...

SFX: FWIP

SFX: FWOOSH

SFX: SPLAT

OPEN UP !!

HEY !

SFX: THUD THUD

SFX: DASH

YOU'RE BREAK-ING THAT PRO-MISE, AREN'T YOU !?

YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO PRO-TECT ME, BUT...

.....

BUT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT IF WE DON'T GET INSIDE !!!

THERE IS... BUT TIME IS LIMITED! WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT FAST!!!

MUT-SUMI...

ISN'T THERE A TECHNIQUE TO CHASE THAT HUGE THING AWAY?

チャッ

チャッ

I KNEW ACTING ON YOUR SIDE WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE, MUTSUMI.

SFX: KER-CHAK X2

THIS SORT OF THING IS MY SPECIALTY, YOU KNOW ?

AND I LIED ABOUT THAT WINDOW BEING OPEN FROM THE BEGINNING A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

SFX: SLIDE

SFX: KER-CHAK KER-CHAK

COME, YOU'RE WEL-COME.

カチャッ

SFX: CLICK

KAI.

PLEASE HELP !

WHAT MEASURES WILL THEY TAKE TO EXTERMINATE THE PROTO-HERMES GRANDIS!?

FROM NOW ON, WE'LL HAVE TO ATTACK THAT PROTO-HERMES GRANDIS !!

Chapter 6: Protohermes grandis - Part 1

As the name of the Protohermes grandis indicates it to be a large flying insect, it is also very aggressive.
It is able to snap at all things it comes into contact with at immense force. And is a rare insect that has been nicknamed, "the river centipede," when larva and can also snap as larva, pupa, adult and all stages.
Protohermes grandis
Megaloptera Order, Corydalidae Family
Unidentified Subspecies

KAI, PLEASE HELP!

CAN YOU TURN ON THAT LIGHT !?

OKAY! OKAY!!

RIGHT, BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO IT!?

FROM NOW ON, WE'LL HAVE TO ATTACK THAT PRO-TOHERMES GRANDIS !!

MUT-SUMI, HURRY !!

WE'LL MAKE USE OF THE INSECTS PHOTO-TAXIS !

YES !

I'LL TURN ON THAT LIGHT LIKE YOU SAID, MUTSUMI, BUT...

BY ANY CHANCE, DO YOU MEAN TO GATHER THE INSECT LIKE A STREET LIGHT AT MIDNIGHT ?

*A PROPERTY THAT ATTRACTS INSECTS TO LIGHT.

IF WE TURN ON THAT LIGHT... WE'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO SPOT THE SMALLER ONE'S, RIGHT ?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT'LL SOON BE BRIGHT, WON'T IT !?

KAI, WHAT-EVER'S HAPPEN-ING, WE HAVE TO DO THIS QUICK!!

.....

IF WE MISS IT NOW, THERE'S A CHANCE THAT IT WON'T RETURN AGAIN !!

NOW'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

ゴオオオン

KY AA AA AA

FINE...

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO BUT BET ON MUTSUMI NOW.

WE CAN MANAGE EVERYTHING IN THE FACILITY FROM HERE.

IT DOESN'T SEEM WE CAN INCREASE THE OUTPUT OF THE LIGHT ITSELF, BUT...

IF WE INCREASE THE OUTPUT OF THE GENERATOR, THEN WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT.

SFX:
CLICK X2
THUMP X2

WAIT A MINUTE, WILL YA?

ARE YOU ABLE TO INCREASE THE OUTPUT OF THE LIGHT ?

A DE-COY ...

TURN ON THE LIGHT WHEN I SIGNAL YOU.

SINCE I'LL BE A DECOY AND LEAD AWAY THE PROTO-HERMES GRANDIS,

.....

IF YOU DISAPPEAR, CAPTAIN, THIS GROUP WILL FEEL UNEASY !

STOP !

ギュッ

SFX: SQUEEZE

EVEN IF YOU INSTRUCT ME LIKE THAT, I'LL HAVE TO MOVE QUICK, BUT...

THAT WAY I'LL BE READY IF I RUN INTO ANY WILD ANIMALS.

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, I'LL CARRY MY BAGGAGE ON MY BACK LIKE I'M COLLECTING INSECTS AND DASH ACROSS THE HILLS AND FIELDS...

BUT, I CAN'T LET MUTSUMI DO IT ALONE ...

SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING SO SHE WON'T FAIL.

HE'S RIGHT!

LEAVE IT TO MUTSUMI. SHE'LL BE FINE.

AND ABOVE ALL, I KNOW THE ECOLOGY OF THE PROTO-HERMES GRAND S MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE HERE.

IF YOU SAY SO...

BUT, YOU KNOW, THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM, ISN'T THERE?

SFX. CLICK X2

YOU MEAN THEY'RE HALO-GEN...

THE LIGHTS AT THE HELI-PAD.

AND THAT IT TAKES ABOUT 5 MINUTES UNTIL THEY BECOME BRIGHT, RIGHT?

WE'VE DIS-CUSSED IT ENOUGH AND WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME!

I'LL BE FINE! LEAVE IT TO ME!!

COULD YOU SET THE OUTPUT OF THE LIGHT TO MAX WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL !?

SINCE I'LL BUY TIME AND LEAD AWAY THE PROTO-HERMES GRAN-DIS,

SFX. WHISHHH

SFX. PING PING

HEH.

YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT THEM GIVEN THAT'S HOW THEY'RE USED TO COLLECT INSECTS AT NIGHT.

WILL DO. TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF OUT THERE!!

SFX. RIP

SFX. RUSTLE RUSTLE

SFX. SLURP

SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE

SFX: TURN TURN

SFX:
KER CHAK

THE ONLY THOUGHT PATTERNS OF AN INSECT ARE ON AND OFF...

SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE

THERE-FORE, AN INSECT CANNOT PERFORM MORE THAN ONE ACTION AT THE SAME TIME.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF IT'S EATING, IT CANNOT ENTER A SWITCH.

EVEN IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN, IT WOULD CONTINUE EATING ITS FOOD.

UNLESS IT STOPS WHAT IT'S DOING AND SWITCHES TO CHASING PREY...

SFX. GRIP X 3

SFX. RUSTLE RUSTLE

THAT'S WHY IT HAS NOW BECOME ABSORBED IN SIPPING SHIRA-KAWA'S BODY FLUIDS.

A-HA

SFX TAP, TAP TAP

SFX: GRIP

SFX: JERK

SFX: FWIP

I ABSO-LUTELY CAN'T FAIL.

I ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE TO SURVIVE THIS...

SFX: CLENCH

ブーン

SFX: WHOOSH

SFX: WHOOSH

THE PROTO-HERMES GRANDIS SHOULDN'T NOTICE ME BEFORE THAT LIGHT BECOMES BRIGHT.

THEY'VE BECOME GIANT IN THE NATURAL WORLD WHERE MINERALS AND VEGETABLE PROTEIN ARE INSUFFICIENT FOR THAT SO THEY HAVE BEGUN TO ATTACK THE ANIMALS.

YESTER-DAY'S PAPILIO MAACKII WERE LIKE THAT, TOO, BUT,

THAT PROTO-HERMES GRANDIS... THE SHAPE OF ITS HEAD IS DIFFERENT FROM THE DOMESTIC KIND.

IF THE BEETLE AND THE STAG BEETLE ALSO INCREASED IN SIZE, THEN THEIR BODY SHAPE SHOULD ALSO CHANGE, BUT... THAT'S NOT THE CASE, IS IT?

NO... FOR THAT TO HAPPEN IN ONE NORMAL YEAR IN AN INSECT'S LIFE CYCLE IS TOO SOON SO IT WOULD BE EQUAL TO ABOUT 1,000 YEARS, BUT...

DID IT MUTATE TO PREY ON ANIMALS BY NATURE BECAUSE THE PROTOHERMES GRANDIS LIKED HIGH-PROTEIN SAP SUCH AS OAKS ?

A DECADE OR MORE WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR IT'S SHAPE TO CHANGE...

SFX: TAP TAP

OR IS IT INFORMATION AND ECOLOGY THAT I KNOW BUT CAN'T REMEMBER !?

SO, IS THAT PROTO-HERMES GRAND S AN ISLAND ORIGINAL ENDEM C SPEC ES THAT I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT ?

IF I DON'T MAKE IT PASS...

SFX BONK

SFX FWUMP

EVEN IF IT IS A DIFFERENT KIND AND BRANCH, THE PROTOHERMES GRANDIS IS STILL PART OF THE NEUROPTERA ORDER!

I MUSTN'T WORRY!!

SFX: WHOOSH

IT WON'T BE A PROB-LEM!!

ビュッ

SFX: PYUL PYUL

SFX: PYUL PYUL

SFX: PYUL PYUL

SFX: PYUL PYUL

COME TOWARD THE SIREN! FOLLOW ME !!

IT'S BEGUN...

SFX: THUD THUD

SFX: SCREECH

IF I PREDICT IT'S LINEAR ACTIONS AND BE PERFECTLY CAREFUL, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DODGE ITS ATTACK !!

I HAVE TO BUY TIME UNTIL THE LIGHT BE-COMES BRIGHT !

SFX: KA-BOOM

SFX BOOM

WHAT WAS THAT !?

SFX BOOM

SFX BOOM

YOU'RE SHAKING TOO MUCH.

SFX ガタガタ

SFX BOOM

WELL, WHO CARES... LET'S CONTINUE OUR STRIP SHOW, CLASS REP...

SFX BOOM

WHAT ARE YOU LOOK-ING AT?

WH
AA
AA
AA
AT
!!?

SFX FLAP

SFX: STOMP STOMP

I'VE GOT TO LEAD IT THIS WAY!!

THE PROTO-HERMES GRAN-DIS IS GOING TO FLY!

SFX: PYUU PYUU

SFX: WOOF

SFX: PYUU PYUU

OVER HERE! OVER HERE!!

IT SHOULD FOLLOW ME AS IT IS !!

GOOD, IT'S FLYING !!

SFX: FWISH

THE STEEL TOWER ISN'T THIS WAY !!

MUT SUMI !

!!

SFX: SLIDE

THE PROTO-HERMES GRANDIS DRAWS NEAR !!

SFX: GROWL

Chapter 6: Protohermes Grandis - Part 2

SFX:
WOBBLE

SFX:
STEP

SFX:
BOOM

SFX:
TURN

SFX: SCREECH

IT'S GLID-ING AS IT IS TO GAIN SPEED !!

SFX: FWISH

SFX: ISSS-SSH

JUST A LITTLE FUR-THER!

JUST A LITTLE FUR-THER!

SFX: YANK

SFX GRAH

SFX: TAP

SFX: TAP

SFX: TAP

SFX WHOOSH

SFX: TAP

*THIS STORY IS FICTION.
IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE
PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

SFX: FLAP

SFX: ROLL ROLL

SFX: BANG

SFX: SQUEEZE

SFX: SHUDDER

SFX: BOOM

SFX: CLATTER

max

00%

0%

SURE THING.

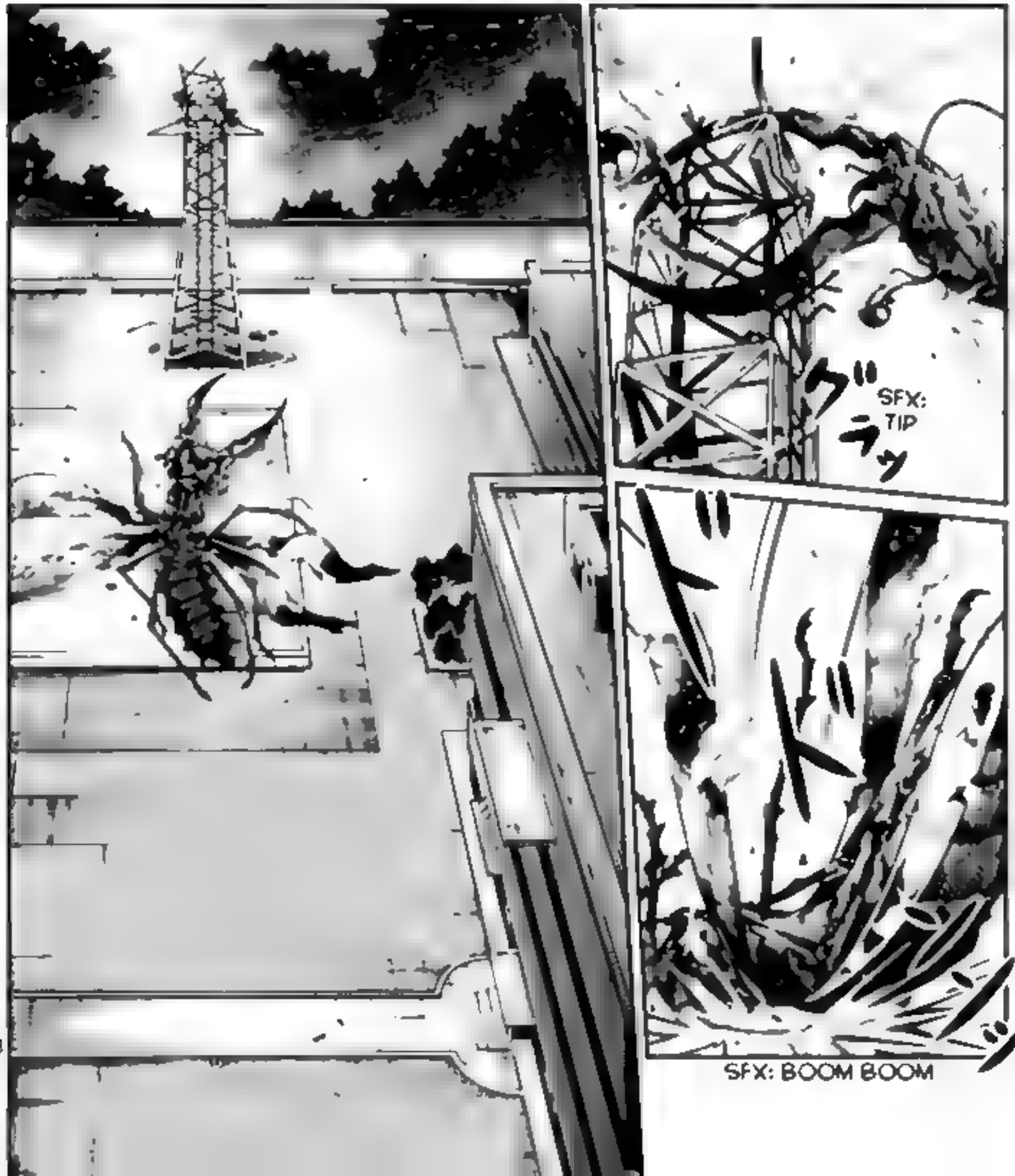
RAISE THE OUT-PUT !!!

YES !

SFX: WHOOSH

SFX:
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

WE DID IT !!


SFX: TIP
SFX: BOOM BOOM

IT'S OKAY, I'M FINE!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? AREN'T YOU HURT?

.....

SFX. TAP X3

WE'RE FINE.

THAT... THAT THING'S NOT GONNA MOVE, IS IT?

KYAAAAA

INSECTS WITH A STRONG PHOTOTAXIS SWARM AROUND UV LIGHT THAT CANNOT BE SEEN BY THE EYES OF A HUMAN.

TO IT, THE LIGHT OF THE HALOGEN LIGHT WHICH HAD APPEARED SO SUDDENLY MUST HAVE LOOKED BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN.

IT'S BECAUSE THE PROTOHERMES GRANDIS CAN SEE ULTRAVIOLET RAYS WHICH WE CANNOT SENSE.

ANYWAY... WHY DID IT THRUST ITSELF AT THE LIGHT LIKE THAT EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SO BRIGHT?

WHAT? WE'RE MOVING !?

CAN'T WE STAY HERE UNTIL HELP COMES !!?

SO LET'S MOVE ALL THE THINGS WE NEED IN ONE GO.

EVEN SO, WE CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER.

THAT'S A MISERABLE HABIT, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE ?

SO IT GOT ELECTRO-CUTED BY BEING ATTRACTED TO A LIGHT THAT WE CANNOT SEE...

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT INSIDE WOULD BE SAFE, EITHER.

LET'S GET BACK TO THE FAC LITY WH CH WILL BE SAFER THAN OUTSIDE AND COME UP WITH A PLAN FOR THE TIME BEING.

EEK !!

IT'S THE PROTO-HERMES GRANDIS AND SHI-RAKAWA ...

OTHER INSECTS WILL GATHER HERE IN ORDER TO PREY ON THEM.

I HAD A LOOK AROUND, YOU SEE...

AND THERE WERE THESE MONSTERS SEEPED IN FORMALIN IN HUGE WATER TANKS.

AND THIS, YOU CRAB FUCK !!

SFX: THUD

TAKE THIS !!

SFX: THUMP

Portunus Trituberculatus
Decapoda • Brachyura
Portunidae Family
Unidentified Subspecies

SFX: GRAB

FUCK! THESE GUYS ARE HEAVY TO LIFT, AREN'T THEY !!?

AH HH HH !!

SFX: GRUNT

FUCK! WHAT POW-ER !!

SFX: HUH

SFX: HUH

CALM DOWN! IF YOU KEEP MAKING SUCH POINTLESS MOVEMENTS, YOU'LL LOSE STAMINA AND THEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE!

AND IF I MEET UP WITH HER GROUP IN PARTICULAR, I'LL HAVE TO THINK ONLY ABOUT ESCAPING ...

IF SHE MET AN UNKNOWN CREATURE IN THE MOUN-TA NS... NO. AT ANY RATE, IF I ESCAPE...

WHAT SHE SAID ABOUT MUT-SUMI...

CRABS ARE OMNI-VORES.

SFX: TUG

CHI-TOSE, WHERE ARE YOU !!?

CHI-TOSE !

AND IF THEY'RE AS BIG AS KAI SAYS... THEN THEY'LL EAT EVERY-THING RIGHT DOWN TO THE BONE.

EAT RIGHT DOWN TO THE BONE ?

SFX: THUD

SFX· CRUNCH

WE'RE THE ONLY ONE'S IN THIS FAC-ILITY !!

SHUT UP !

WAS THAT MUT-SUMI'S VOICE JUST NOW !?

FUCK !!

I CAN HELP YOU! UNITE ME !!

TH... THEY'RE EATING YOUR PANT-IES.

HEH HA HA HA...

U... UNTIE ME!!

HEY! IF IT'S FOOD YOU WANT, THERE'S SOME LYING OVER THERE!

SFX: BOING

HEH HEH... NOW YOU'RE GONNA GET EATEN OUT BY THOSE HENTAI CRABS GATHERING AROUND YOU.

OWW OWW OWW !!

SFX: GRUMBLING

SFX: BONK

SFX: SLIP

WOAAAAH

I'M GOING TO DIE HERE LIKE THIS, AREN'T I?

I IMAGINE THEY WENT THROUGH GREAT PAINS TO RESCUE ME, BUT...

SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO RUN AWAY LIKE THAT!

SFX: BAM

THIS IS SERI-OUS, MI-SUZU!!

MUT-SUMI!?

CHI-TOSE!

AH HH HH

SFX: BOOM

SFX: GRUMBLE

I STUCK IT WITH A HYDRAULIC RESIN PLASTER CAST !!

SFX: WHOOSH

NO OOO OO !!

OKAY, OKAY. EVERYONE, GET ON TOP OF THE BEDS.

AND WATCH THE CLASS REP SO THAT HER FEET DON'T TOUCH THE FLOOR, YOU HEAR ?

SFX: BAM BAM BAM

SFX: BANG

AND THE GENERA-TOR'S DEAD.

INSULATORS LIKE THESE AREN'T HARD TO FIND, YOU KNOW?

KAI!

SFX: HAA HAA

MUT-SUMI...

CHI-TOSE! CHI-TOOO SSSE !!

SFX THUD

SFX: WHOOSH WHOOSH

!?

!?

THANK GOOD NESS...

CHITOSE, IF YOU DIDN'T WAKE UP... I...

EVERY-ONE, THANK YOU.

I WASN'T ABLE TO MOVE MY BODY, BUT, I WAS THINKING OF YOU ALL.

I DIDN'T STUDY TO KILL INSECTS !

DI DO SE... I...

I KNOW FIGHTING INSECTS MUST HAVE BEEN HARD ON YOU, MUTSUMI.

DON'T CRY ANY-MORE.

LEAVE THE MOVIE-LIKE EMOTIONAL SCENES FOR LATER.

OKAY, OKAY.

MUTSUMI, YOU DID GOOD. THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLOGISE.

ANOTHER 2 DAYS... WE'LL SURVIVE BY ANY MEANS !!

YES...

ARE WE GONNA MOVE OR WHAT ?

WE'VE GOT TO ESCAPE BEFORE THE INSECTS SWARM !

AND THAT PLACE WILL ABSOLUTELY BE SAFE!

OUR DESTI-NATION IS THE LAST PLACE LEFT ON THIS ISLAND.

ONCE AGAIN THEY LEAVE FOR SAFETY ...!!

CHAPTER 7: ENCOUNTER - PART 1

DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'VE DONE!?

IF WE DIDN'T ...

IT WAS AN EMER-GENCY

THAT'S RIGHT! WE HAD TO URGENTLY TAKE REFUGE.

WE HAD NO CLUE IF YOU HAD A PARASITE OR NOT...

NOW, NOW...

YOU MEAN DEAD BECAUSE OF THE BUGS, RIGHT ?

SHIRA-KAWA'S DEAD BECAUSE OF YOU, YOU KNOW THAT !!?

CALM DOWN !!

YOU BAS-TARD !!

LET'S LEAVE THESE PEOPLE AS THEY ARE.

THAT'S RIGHT...

PUNISH-MENT?

EVEN IF YOU HIT HIM, YOU'D ONLY END UP HURTING YOUR FIST, CAPTA N... AND HE HAS TO RECE VE A BIGGER PUN SHMENT THAN THAT.

H... HEY, YOU'RE GONNA UNTIE THE ROPES, RIGHT ?

WELL THEN, IT WOULDN'T BE A PUN-ISHMENT, WOULD IT?

YEAH, WE CAN'T RELY ON PEOPLE LIKE THEM ANYMORE !!

.....

SAY SOME-THING WILL YOU !!

MAMI, MAMI !!

~ッ

~ﾌﾗ~

*THIS STORY IS FICTION. IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

SFX: WHOOSH AND SNEAKY

E... EVERY-ONE, WAIT!

I CAN'T COVER FOR YOU THIS TIME, EITHER, YOU KNOW.

WHAT, YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO STICK UP FOR THEM, ARE YOU, MUTSUMI ?

IF LEADER AND MISUZU DISAPPEAR... THEN SO WILL OUR BATTLE FORMATION WHEN WE MOVE...

I... I'M NOT STICKING UP FOR THEM, BUT...

U... UGH... UMM...

JUST LEAVE THEM.

EVEN IF WE HAVE YOU IN PLACE OF SHIRAKAWA'S GOOD EARS FROM THE BRASS BAND CLUB, CHITOSE...

SFX. WHFF

HURRY UP AND GET THESE ROPES OFF.

WE'RE SAVED !

THANK MUT-SUMI.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED ...

SFX. STANDS UP

I'M THE LEADER, YOU GOT THAT !!

LET THE BOTH OF THEM PASS T ME TIED UP TOGETHER LIKE THAT FOR THE TIME BE NG.

DID YOU THINK WE WOULD GIVE YOU FREEDOM SO EASILY? YOU'RE DANGEROUS PEOPLE!

YOU'RE NOT TAKING ADVAN-TAGE OF THIS !

YOU'RE NOT THE LEADER ANY-MORE !!

UH... UMM ...

I DON'T HAVE A PROB-LEM.

WELL, IF MUTSUMI SAY'S SO.

IF THERE'S TO BE A NEW LEADER, I WANT CHITOSE TO BE IT.

U... UGH... I'LL DO IT IF NOBODY ELSE WILL, BUT...

ペコリ

LET'S ALL COMBINE OUR STRENGTH TOGETHER !

RIGHT!

MUTSUMI! PLEASE MAKE TRAVEL PREPARA-TIONS!!

LET'S HURRY! THE INSECTS WILL GATHER SOON IF WE DON'T MOVE.

PLEASE GATHER THEM AND THINGS THAT COULD BE USEFUL AS WEAPONS BY YOUR OWN JUDGMENT!!!

SFX: DASH, TAP TAP TAP TAP

ダッ

タタタ

FOOD! MEDICAL SUPPLIES!

DON'T SAY IT SO LOUD!

WHAT? YOUR UNDER-WEAR !?

JUST A MOMENT.

SFX: WHISPER WHISPER

I... I UNDER-STAND.

O... OKAY...

SORRY... THERE WASN'T ANY UNDER-WEAR.

Even the most unexpected items are known to be effectively utilized in situations like this.

When met with disaster, the omission of useful things to gather decreases than letting an individual decide which supplies to take

THESE ARE THE ONLY THINGS THAT WE NEED TO TAKE.

ONCE YOU OPEN PROCESSED FOOD, ITS SMELL IS STRONG SO WE'LL BE IN DANGER OF DRAWING INSECTS NEAR.

SPAM

WE ONLY NEED TO BRING SUPPLIES TO ARRIVE AT OUR DESTINA-TION NOW!

IF WE TAKE TOO MUCH, OUR MOVEMENT SPEED WILL DROP DUE TO THE WEIGHT.

SHOULDN'T WE TAKE MORE FOOD AND WATER TO LAST?

IF WE EAT, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO EASY, RIGHT ?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?

WE CAN'T CARRY UNBOILED WATER AND FIRE, SO PLEASE DON'T EAT ANY FOOD SOURCED LOCALLY.

EVERY-ONE... PLEASE PROTECT ONLY THAT.

I UNDER-STAND.

C... COULD WE BY ANY CHANCE ALREADY HAVE A PARASITE INSIDE US?

PLEASE SWALLOW THE ANTHELM NTIC THAT I AM DISTR BUTING NOW.

AKIRA GOT INFECTED BY THE LEUCO-CHLORIDIUM PARASITE.

THEREFORE, I IMAGINE THAT IT ENTERED HIS BODY THROUGH THE OF EPITHELIUM OF UNBOILED WATER AND BERRIES.

PLEASE MAKE SURE NEVER TO EAT THEM.

WOULD YOU RATHER NOT TAKE IT?

W... WILL... IT WORK ?

And has a strong anthelmintic effect on bark and leaves. These days, synthetic drugs of it have become commonplace.

Anthelmintic
Known to the general public as a deworming medicine It has been made from melia azedarach (trees and shrubs) in Japan since long ago

SFX: WHISPER WHISPER

TO MY KNOWLEDGE, INSECTS CONCERNING RESPIRATORY ORGANS

CAN'T BECOME BIG LIKE THAT, RIGHT?

SFX: WHISPER WHISPER

WHAT IS IT ?

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE HERE?

IN COMPARISON TO A MAMMALS STRUCTURE, SINCE IT'S NOT CROWDED, IT CAN TAKE IN AN ABUNDANCE OF OXYGEN WITH SIMPLICITY. THEREFORE, IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GROW THRT BIG WITHOUT SUCH LARGE QUANTITIES OF OXYGEN.

FROM A SPIRACLE, THE INSECT BREATHES IN AIR THAT'S TAKEN IN, BUT...

EVEN MR. ENOKI'S FIELD NOTEBOOK WHICH I RESPECT SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

"RATHER THAN SOME KIND OF FAMOUS THEORY, I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD WIDEN OUR INTUITION AND WINGS OF IMAGINATION FOR EVERYTHING THAT WE LOOK AT NOW", IT SAYS!

IN ADDITION TO TRACHEA, ITS ORIGIN TELLS ME THAT IT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GROW THAT LARGE, BUT...

ALL THE INSECTS WE HAVE SEEN HAVE ESSENTIALLY BECOME GIGANTIC. THEY'RE AT A SIZE THAT EVEN A SCHOLAR WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PREDICT!

...AND THAT'S JUST WHAT I'VE SAID SO FAR.

SO FAR ?

IT'S THE INSECTS, YOU SEE? THEY OFTEN LIVE IN COEXISTENCE WITH THE BACTERIA.

THEREFORE, MY INTUITION TELLS ME THAT IN TRACHEA WHICH THEY BECOME GIGANTIC, THE STRONG BACTERIA TAKES THIS ISLAND'S SPECIAL OXYGEN INTO THE R BODIES AND COEXISTS.

JUST LIKE OXYGEN EFFICIENCY IN THE LUNGS OF A MAMMAL ...

WOW, YOU'RE GOOD AT SPEAKING IN A LOUD VOICE.

AND WHEN AROUND FR ENDS, YOU SURE ARE TALKATIVE, AREN'T YOU?

I... I'M SORRY.

WAH...

OOPS, SORRY.

SFX: THUMP

KY AA AA AA AA

AT THAT FACILITY, I...

THINK-ING THAT, TOO?

YOU WERE THINKING THAT, TOO, CLASS REP?

I WONDER IF SUCH A FACILITY ON A SMALL ISLAND LIKE THIS COULD HAVE A CONNECTION TO THE LARGE INSECTS?

SFX
WHOOSH

WHAT WAS THAT !?

!!

SFX
WHOO

SFX
RUSTLE

AH

SFX: RUN RUN RUN RUN

!!

NO OO OO

SFX: FLAP

CAP-TAIN, WAIT !!

WE HAVE TO HELP THEM NOW !!

ズガガガガ

I CAN DO THIS ...

WE HAVE FOUGHT THEM BEFORE ...

RIGHT !

MUT-SUMI, PLEASE !!

YOU BAS-TARD!

SFX: ザッ DASH

OVER HERE !!!

SFX: KER-CHAK

SFX: WHOOSH

WHAT !?

SFX: SWOOSH

WO AH HH

HELP! HELP !!

WO AH HH HH

IT'S USELESS TO AIM AT ITS FRONT/ AIM FROM UNDER ITS WINGS!!

SFX: WHOOSH

I HIT IT...

SFX. BURN

SFX. BURN

I'M SURE OF IT... YOU'RE FROM THE TRACK AND FIELD CLUB.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

SUZUKI ...

MIYA-SONO AND

SURVI-VORS FOUND!!

Same School
2nd Year Class 2
Suzuki Kayo

Houshou Private
High School
2nd Year Class 4
Miyasono Emiko

EVERYONE IN OUR GROUP IS HERE!

IS IT JUST THE TWO OF YOU?

OUR GROUP IS BEYOND HERE.

WE... WE WENT TO LOOK FOR FOOD SINCE WE WERE IN THE TRACK AND FIELD CLUB AND COULD RUN FAST.

Chapter 7: Encounter - Part 2

THERE'S MORE THAN JUST US WHO SURVIVED!

LET'S JOIN UP!!

SFX: RATTLE RATTLE

ガラガラ

EVERY-ONE! WE'RE BACK.

WE'RE HERE.

HEY, DID YOU FIND ANY FOOD ?

Same school
Year 2 Class 3
Momosaki Kasumi

MIYA-SONO, YOU'RE SAFE.

THANK GOOD-NESS.

Same School
Year 2 Class 4
Aoyama Nozomi

I'M JUST GLAD THAT THE BOTH OF YOU CAME BACK ALIVE, MIYASONO.

DON'T APOLO-GISE.

Same School
Year 2 Class 2
Usui Ryou

SORRY... WE WERE ATTACKED BY INSECTS ON THE WAY...

THAT'S TRUE.

THEY MUST BE GOOD TO HAVE SURVIVED THIS FAR, RIGHT ?

WHAT, WHO ARE THESE BORING PEOPLE ?

WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE ?

BITCH!! WHO ARE YOU TO SAY THAT TO MY FACE !?

SHOULDN'T HE HAVE BEEN EATEN ALREADY ?

WHO BROUGHT THIS IDIOT ALONG ?

*THIS STORY IS FICTION.
IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

WHAT? MINOWA, THE NATIONAL POLITY STRENGTH-ENING MEMBER ?

HUH... YOU'RE MINOWA FROM THE JUDO CLUB, AREN'T YOU?

SFX SLIDE

イオッ

WHAT IS IT, KAMIJO!? YOU'RE FUNNY LOOKING, YOU KNOW THAT?

SHUT UP!!

SFX: TREMBLE

Same School
Year 2 Class 5
Minowa Takeshi

I'M SORRY.

TEACHER ...

MINOWA, ENOUGH ALREADY.

MISS MARIKA ?

OH !?

Teacher from the
Same School
Year 2 Class 5
Homeroom Teacher
Chuujou Marika

YUP.

KAMIJO... YOU'RE ALIVE.

SFX: HEH HEH HEH

WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A THING TO KAMIJO ?

WHO ARE YOU...

TEACHER, THIS IS...

THIS IS CLEARLY BULLY-ING.

WHO IS THE RING-LEADER? STEP FOR-WARD.

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR AN EXCUSE.

.....

SUCH A TERRIBLE THING...

HURRY AND UNITE THEM.

.....

YOU MEAN BECAUSE MIYASONO AND SUZUKI DIDN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING, DON'T YOU?

EVEN IF SHE IS A TEACHER, WE ARE IN TROUBLE, AREN'T WE?

MOMO-SAKI! YOU'RE BEING RUDE TO THE TEACHER!

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT? WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT OUR FOOD PROBLEM?

IT'S ONLY A LITTLE, BUT PLEASE TAKE THIS FOOD.

SFX: AH, SHWIPP

あ...

THAT... IDIOT...

WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?

WOW, THERE'S FOOD AND WATER !!

.....

THEY TIED ME UP...

I SAID WE SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT A LOT MORE, BUT...

WE BROUGHT IT FROM THE PLACE WE WERE HIDING IN UNTIL NOW.

WHY DID YOU LEAVE SUCH A PLACE?

YEAH, THERE'S A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF FOOD AND WATER IN THE MEDICAL FACILITY.

WHAT? YOU LEFT A LOT OF FOOD BEHIND?

IT'S HOPE-LESS!

IF YOU GO BACK NOW, YOU'LL BE ATTACKED BY CARNIVOROUS INSECTS WHICH SWARMED THE CORPSES OF THE PROTOHERMES GRANDIS AND THE PORTUNUS TRITUBER-CULATUS.

CRUSTACEAN CORPSES LIKE THE PORTUNUS TRITUBER-CULATUS IN PARTICULAR EMIT A STRONG SMELL THAT IS INSTANTLY DETECTED BY CARNIVOROUS INSECTS!

SFX: FWWSH

ARE YOU CERTAIN ...

IS WHAT YOU SAID TRUE, ORIBE ?

I'M NOT AN EXPERT, BUT DON'T EVER CUT ME OFF WHEN I'M SPEAKING AGAIN.

EVEN SO, IT IS HOPE-LESS!!

YOU SHOULD SHOW RESPECT TO YOUR SENIOR, YOU KNOW ?

ガッ!!

SFX: SLIDE

IT'S UNBELIEV-ABLE THAT YOU GAVE ADVICE TO THE TEACHER.

NOW NOW, THAT'S ENOUGH.

UH, UMM

THAT'S ENOUGH !

SO YOU BELIEVE THAT WHAT MISS MARIKA IS SAYING IS WRONG ?

WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO SURVIVE DUE TO MUTSUMI'S KNOWL-EDGE.

PLEASE BELIEVE WHAT MUT-SUMI SAYS.

WE SHOULD THINK IN TERMS OF COMMON-SENSE AND GO TO THE PLACE WITH PRECIOUS FOOD.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE FIGHTING AMONGST OUR-SELVES.

OBEY THE EXACT INSTRUCT-IONS OF AN ADULT.

PLEASE! PLEASE RE-CONSIDER, TEACHER!!

YEAH, THAT'S FINE WITH ME.

WHAT ?

HEY, MISUZU, BUG GIRL, YOU GUYS COME, TOO !

THEN LET ME CONFIRM IT'S WHILE SAFE. I'M AT IT, I'LL ALSO SECURE THE FOOD.

OKAY.

MIYA-SONO, GO WITH THEM.

IF THERE IS SOMETH NG THERE, COME TELL US WITH THOSE PROUD LEGS OF YOURS.

WE CAME THROUGH THAT WAY A LITTLE WHILE AGO SO IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE.

I CAN TRUST YOU ON THIS, CAN'T I, KAMIJO ?

IF MUT-SUMI'S GOING, THEN I'M GOING, TOO.

WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO A PLACE LIKE THAT ?

IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, EAT BEFORE YOU LEAVE TOGETHER, OKAY?

I UNDER-STAND.

MINOWA, HELP THEM AS WELL.

I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS.

TEACHER ...

MOMOSAKI... DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU WANTED TO MAKE SURE KAMIJO WILL BE SAFE ?

SFX: RUSTLE FWWSHHH

RIGHT.

MUT-SUMI, TAKE CARE.

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN LEGS, DON'T YOU?

A FOOLISH LADY LIKE YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED BEHIND.

I'M TIRED ...

MINOWA, CARRY ME, WILL YOU ?

IF YOU GET BACK SAFELY.

WHEN WE GET BACK, I'LL HAVE TO ASK MY FATHER TO GET YOU EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL.

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY, MISUZU.

.....

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

WHAT WAS THAT !?

WAIT A SECOND ...

SFX: THRUST

WHAT IS THIS UNCOM-FORTABLE FEELING

WE PASSED THROUGH HERE A LITTLE WHILE AGO, BUT...

KYA

PLEASE, CALM DOWN.

?!?!

?!

STOP TALKING, YOU'RE BEING TOO LOUD!

SFX: BAM

SFX: THUD

SFX: THRUST

NO!! RUN AWAY !!!

DAMN IT!!

IT'S A NEST OF TIGER BEETLES !!!

◆ THE FEAR OF CARNIVOROUS INSECTS!!

Chapter 8: The Tiger Beetle - Part 1

Cicindela japonica
(Last instar larva)
Coleoptera order
Carabidae family
Unidentified subspecies
*English Name Tiger Beetle

MIYA-
SONO
!!!!

EE
EE

SFX: SLASH

EE
EE
EE
EK
!!

SFX: FWW SHHH

SUCH SMALL HANDS.

SFX:
VSSSHH

NO
OO
OO

!!

MUYA-
SOMO
!!

AH HH

SFX: ROLL

SFX: ROLL

SFX: BOOM

DON'T MOVE !!

SAVE HER YOUR-SELF !!

KAMIJO! SAVE MIYA-SONO !!

WE WON'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND !!

THOSE LARVA ARE SUPPLE-MENTED BY VIBRATIONS RUNNING THROUGH THE GROUND !!

SFX THRUST

NO OO OO OO

SFX: SLAM

SFX SNAP

SFX: SLAM

SFX GYAAAAAA

SFX: SCREECH

SFX: WHACK

SFX: DASH

SFX: SKID

SFX: THUD THUD THUD THUD

SFX: SLIDE

MINOWA, THIS WAY!!

SFX: SL P- SL DE, THUD THUD

*THIS STORY IS FICTION. IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL L FE PEOPLE OR ORGAN SATIONS.

KAMI-JO!!

SFX: WHOOSH

HEEELP !!!

SFX: SLAP

YOU'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS YOU DON'T MOVE !!

EVERYONE, DON'T MOVE! THEY REACT TO VIBRA-TIONS!

.....

WE CAN'T MOVE !?

GUESSING FROM THEIR SIZE, IF YOU GET CAUGHT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE USING HUMAN STRENGTH ALONE.

TIGER BEETLES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE INSECTS WE'VE FACED SO FAR THEY'RE PURELY CARNIVOROUS

FWISH

ENOUGH WITH THE COMMENTARY AND THINK OF A WAY TO HELP !!

SFX: WHOOSH

MINO WA!!

WO AH

SFX: FWWSHHH

SOME-BODY, HELP!

UGH!

SFX: SLAP

SFX: STAGGER

AHH HHH !!!

WHERE ARE THEY ATTACKING FROM? I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY ARE DOING THIS ...

WE'LL BE EXTERMI-NATED FOR SURE.

UNLESS WE LEAVE THIS PLACE IMMEDIATELY OR FIND A SAFETY ZONE,

AND WHY ARE THEIR BURROWS ARE VERY HARD TO SEE WHEN VIEWED FROM THE SIDE?

IF THERE WERE SOMETHING S MILAR TO MAN-MADE OBJECTS LIKE ASPHALT AND CONCRETE AROUND, THEN THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A NEST.

HAVE ALMOST NO EYESIGHT AND ONLY AN ANT WOULD FALL INTO IT'S OBVIOUS TRAP, AT ANY RATE...

IN ORDER TO PREY ON OTHER INSECTS, IT HAS TO CREATE AN ELABORATE TRAP TO CAMOUFLAGE ITSELF IN THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

UNLIKE THE DOODLE-BUG'S FAMOUS LARGE SCALE TRAP, TIGER BEETLE LARVA CANNOT SEE WHAT IS ABOVE. THEY ARE RAISED WITH MINIMUM SIZE IN MIND SO THAT THEY WON'T BE EASILY DIS-COVERED.

OVER THERE !!

NONE...

WHAT ABOUT A ROCKY AREA...

GETTING TO THE MOUNTAINS IS IMPOSSIBLE !!

HELP !!

EVERY-ONE, TAKE REFUGE IN THE BAMBOO FOREST !!

SFX
DASH
THUD
THUD
THUD

SFX SKID

SFX: DRAAAAA

NO OO OO !!!

SFX: CLENCH

SFX: SLAM

SFX: BAM

SFX: SLAM

SFX: KER-BONK

THE BAMBOO FOREST IS A NATURAL SHELTER. IT WILL PROTECT US.

HUH?

SFX: WHACK

SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE

IF YOU F ND A BAMBOO FOREST IN A TIME OF DISTRESS, THE POSSI-B LITY THAT YOU WILL SURVIVE INCREASES EXPONEN-TIALLY.

AND F IT IS THE CORRECT SEASON, THERE WILL BE FOOD READILY AVAIL-ABLE, TOO.

ORDER: POALES FAMILY: POACEAE (SUBFAMILY: BAMBUSOIDEAE

AN EVERGREEN PLANT FROM THE POACEAE FAMILY

BAMBOO SUPPRESSES THE SHAKING AND BREAKING OF PLACES LIKE ISLAND TERRITORIES FROM THINGS SUCH AS EARTHQUAKES US NG THE RH ZOME T GROWS

Bamboo

SHUT UP!!

SHOULDER ME TO THE BAMBOO FOREST.

HEY! WAIT!

SFX: DASH DASH DASH

SFX: SCREECH SHAKY X2

SFX· WHOOSH

SFX· THUD

HAA

YOU'RE ALREADY TOO LATE !!

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

HAA

AGH! I KNEW SOMETHING BROKE WHEN I GOT GRABBED BY THOSE CRABS !!

SFX CRACK

SFX SLIDE

GYA AAA AAA AA

MUTSUMI! CAN'T WE DO SOME-THING !!?

IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE, THEN GET OVER HERE!

MOMO-SAKI! THIS WAY!

CRACK CRACK

WHAT?

I'M GOING TO SAVE THEM !!

BUT, IF WE STAY HERE, WE'LL BE SAFE.

WHEN CAUGHT BY THE LARVA OF A TIGER BEETLE, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH JUST HUMAN POWER ALONE...

SFX: PULL

.....

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO THINK ONLY ABOUT SURVIVING, YOU NEED TO SHIFT YOUR THINKING IN THE DIRECTION OF TAKING THEM DOWN, MUTSUMI!!

YOU KNOW MY PERSONALITY, DON'T YOU? I WANT TO SAVE EVERYONE.

SFX: SLAP

YOU WANT TO FIGHT THE TIGER BEETLE LARVAE ?

SFX: SLAP

SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THE TIGER BEETLE LARVAE COME TO US.

CHITOSE, LEND ME A HAND!!

SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE

SFX: BAM

WE'LL BE FINE. IF THEY TRY TO ENTER INSIDE, THE BAMBOO WILL BOUNCE THEM BACK.

COME TO US !?

WHAT IS MUT-SUMI'S PLAN !?

SFX: THUD

I'M TRYING TO MAKE A WEAPON! TAKE OVER FOR ME!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

EVERYONE HAS BEEN CAUGHT SO THEIR MOVEMENTS HAVE BECOME SLOW. I BELIEVE WE CAN INFLICT AN ATTACK ON THE LARVAE NOW!!

RIGHT !

I SEE! I FORGOT ABOUT YOUR PANTIES...

HI YA !

IT'S NO-THING!!

WHAT'S WRONG ?

Chapter 8: The Tiger Beetle - Part 2

IF I WERE TO DIE AS I AM NOW, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN IT, WOULD I!?

SFX: JUMP

OK!

MORE TO THE RIGHT !!

YEAH! I GUESS SO, CHITOSE.

WEAK WHEN IT'S FROM THE TOP!!

BAMBOO IS RESISTANT TO SHOCKS FROM THE SIDE, BUT...

SFX: SST

*THIS STORY IS FICTION.
IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL LIFE PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS.

SFX: SNAP

SFX: SPIN SPIN

SFX: WHOOSH

I'M GOING TO USE IT AS A SHARP BLADE.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH A PIECE OF BAMBOO LIKE THAT?

SFX: SLAP

AND I'LL BE ABLE TO PROTECT EVERYONE WITH THIS!

BESIDES, IF WE MOVE ALONG THE BAMBOO FOREST, THE RHIZOME WILL PROTECT US AND THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTACK FROM BELOW!

SFX: SLASH

NOT ONCE HAVE I EVER BEEN BEATEN IN GYM CLASS. TO LET IT START WOULD BE AUDACIOUS !!

SFX: FWISH

AHH HHH !!

SFX: SMACK

SFX RUMBLE

AIM FOR ITS TORSO !!

WHAT ?

AHH HHH !!

SFX: WHOOSH

SFX SPLASH

SFX: SPLASH

SFX: THUD

HE WAS QUICK TO CUT...

SFX: THUD

SFX
FWSSSSSH

SFX
SLAAA

SFX
DRSH

SFX
SLASH

SFX
AAAAAH

SFX-
BA

SFX
RAANG-

SFX:
FWISSH

SFX:
FLAP

PLEASE GET KAMIJO !!

THANKS FOR SAVING ME!!

I'M AT THE EDGE OF THE BAMBOO FOREST NOW... BEYOND HERE IS DOTTED WITH POINTS UNPROTECTED BY THE RHIZOME... WHERE COULD THE R DEN BE...

IT'S 6M FROM HERE TO MOMOSAKI... WHAT WILL YOU DO, CHITOSE?

CLASS REP! SAVE MO-MOSAKI, PLEASE!!

YOU'LL BE FINE!! I'LL LURE THE LARVAE TO ME! TAKE A REST!

VECTORING TO MOMOSAKI'S LOCATION NOW.

GOT IT!

HEY! SAVE ME, TOO!

YOU'RE LATE! YOU SHOULD HAVE SAVED ME SOONER!!

CAN YOU RUN? FOLLOW ME IF YOU CAN.

SFX: SHWPP

I'LL SAVE YOU THIS MORNING ONLY...

SFX: WHOOSH

H... HEY...

YOU OWE ME A FAVOUR!

SFX: SLICE

SFX: SLASH

IT DIDN'T CUT!?

SFX: SMA

KEITOSE, COME BACK!! AND GET A NEW SWORD!

THE SWORD'S BLADE HAS BECOME ROUNDED ...

AH HH HH

HH!

IF IT WON'T CUT, THEN IT'LL HAVE TO STAB IT!!!

IT'S TOO LATE FOR SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

SFX: PARACK

SFX: SPLA

HAA

HAA

SFX: ASH

HAA

HAA

HAA

THANKS GOODNESS... THANKS GOOD-NESS YOU'RE SAFE.

YEAH... YEAH...

DIDN'T I ALWAYS SAY WE WOULD SUCCEED IF WE ACTED ON FAITH?

COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST BE THANKFUL, YOU BASTARD ?

YEAH, WHAT HE SAID!

YOU HELPED US NARROWLY ESCAPE FROM DEATH. THANK YOU.

SORRY IF YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING, BUT...

IT SEEMS THAT SOMETHING IS CAUSING THE TIGER BEETLE LARVAE TO BE CAUTIOUS.

THEY QUICKLY HID THEMSELVES. D D SOMETHING HAPPEN?

2 hours later

SFX: QUICK

SFX: SHAA SHAA

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

SOMETHING BIG IS COMING FROM THAT FOREST...

WE NEED TO LEAVE HERE IMME-DIATELY...

CONSIDERING THE CAUTIOUS STATE OF THE LARVAE, IT COULD ONLY BE A LARGE CARNIVOROUS INSECT.

PLEASE, FOLLOW ME!!

AND CONSIDERING THAT THE LARVAE HAVE CEASED MOVEMENT, IT SEEMS THAT THEY ARE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OTHER INSECTS NOW.

TH... THANKS.

I'LL CARRY YOU ON MY BACK !!

OWW !

SFX: SHARP PAIN

NOT ONLY IS MIYASONO DEAD, YOU ALSO CAME BACK WITHOUT ACHIEVING A SINGLE THING?

SO...

IT'S OKAY, DON'T CRY.

EMIKO... EMIKO.

.....

YOU DON'T KNOW SINCE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN OUT THERE, BUT IT'S HELL, TEACHER!!

SHEESH! WE'RE SORRY, OKAY !!?

CAN'T YOU GO AGAIN?

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE SUPPLIES TO SURVIVE.

IT'S HOPELESS! ABSOLUTELY HOPELESS !!

I'LL CERTAINLY BRING BACK SUPPLIES, TEACHER.

PLEASE, LET ME GO!

SFX: GLANCE

ORIBE'S RIGHT. AND THERE ALSO SEEMS TO BE A LARGE INSECT ALONG THE WAY TO THE FACILITY.

IF WE WENT NOW, WE'D CERTAINLY BE ANNIHI-LATED.

THERE'S A LARGE AMOUNT OF INSECT CORPSES ALONG THE WAY AND IN THE MEDICAL FACILITY.

PLEASE, BELIEVE MUT-SUMI.

WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO GET BACK BECAUSE WE HAD MUTSUMI.

WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?

THE PLACE YOU WERE TRYING TO LEAD EVERYONE, IS THAT PLACE REALLY SAFE?

IS WHAT THEY SAID TRUE, ORIBE?

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR OPINION THIS TIME ONLY.

SFX: SST

PERHAPS. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE SAFEST PLACE ON THIS ISLAND.

YES...

HAA... SHE'S MORE RELIABLE THAN YOU, TEACHER.

THANK YOU.

I BELIEVE WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, ORIBE. LET US MOVE.

I SEE.

OR WE WILL REGRET OUR ACT-IONS.

HOWE-VER, WE HAVE TO MOVE IMME-DIATE-LY...

あとがき

藤見泰高
YASUTAKA FUJIMI

こんにちは! 終わらない夏休みの最終日を無限ループしている藤見です!!

この度は『巨蟲列島』2巻をお買い上げ下さり誠にありがとうございます! 作画のREDICE先生、担当編集さん、そして応援して下さる皆さんのおかげで無事2巻を出して頂けましたっ! これからも応援よろしくお願いいたします!!

巨蟲列島を楽しく読んで貰うための小話。(その2)

今回の『巨蟲列島』2巻では、蟲たちが巨蟲化している仮説を睦美が語っていました。ではなぜ、実際の昆虫は巨大化できないのか? 理由とされているのは諸説有りますが今回、作品中で少し触れた「昆虫の呼吸器官の構造では、巨大化するために十分な酸素を身体の隅々まで供給することが出来ない」というのが分かりやすく納得がいく説だと思います。

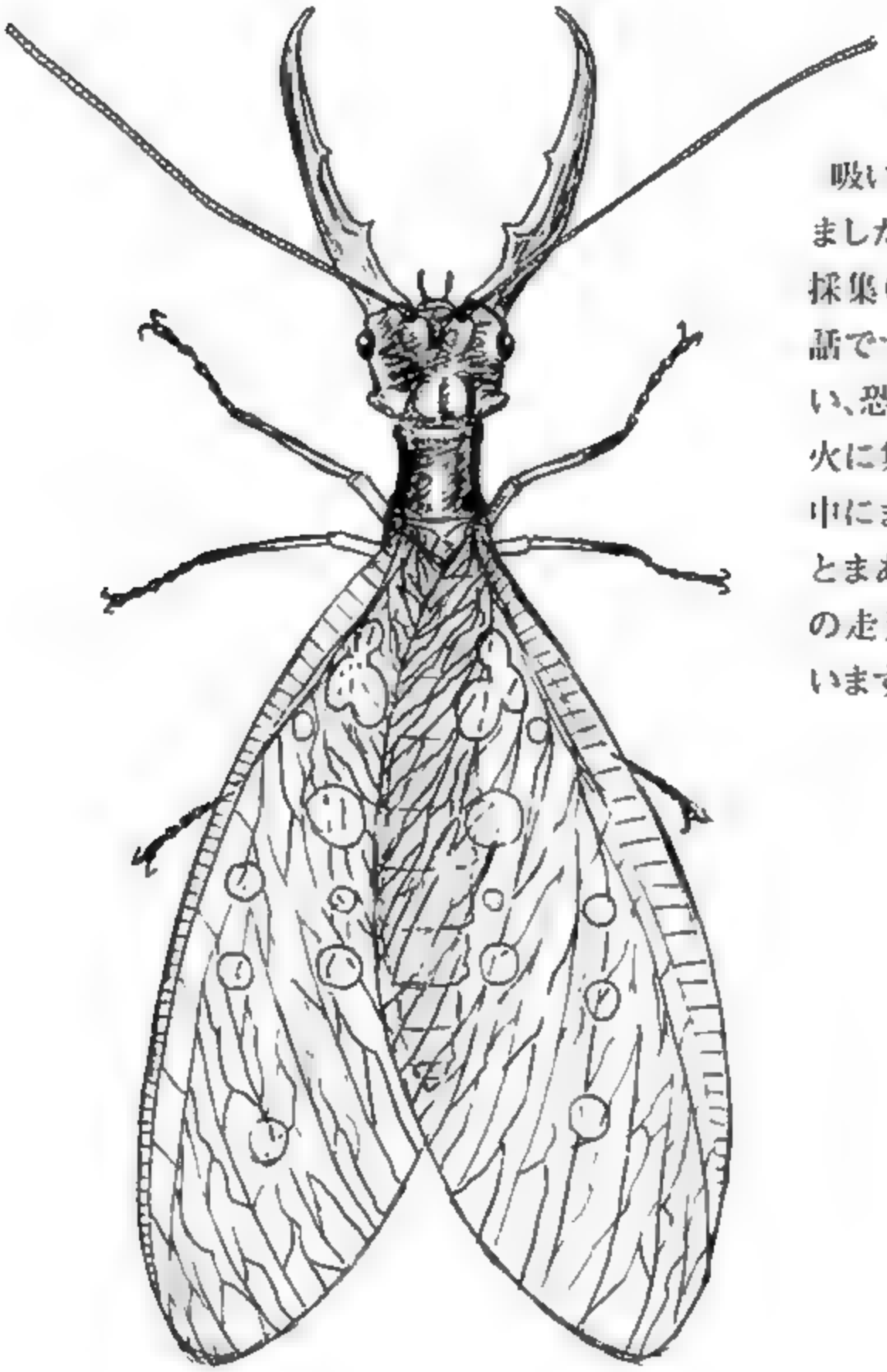
実際の昆虫たちもカブトムシやトンボのように角や羽で大きさを稼いでいるモノではなく、ヨロイモグラゴキブリを代表とする純粋に身体が大きい種類が、どれもみな動きが鈍いのは、体内に取り入れた少ない酸素を大きな身体で効率よく使うためだと考えられています。

では、本当に蟲たちは巨大化できないのか?

今のところ、我々が知っている最も巨大な昆虫は、今から約3億年前の石炭紀に存在していた"メガネウラ"と呼ばれる原始的なトンボです。それでも全長は80cmに満たない。…他にも巨大昆虫は存在していたのであろうが化石として発見されていないため、今の我々では知るすべがありません。なんだ…酸素濃度が現在よりも高い石炭紀ですら巨蟲列島に出てきた蟲たちより遥かに小さいじゃないか…と、お思いでしょうが、まだまだ可能性は無限に存在します。

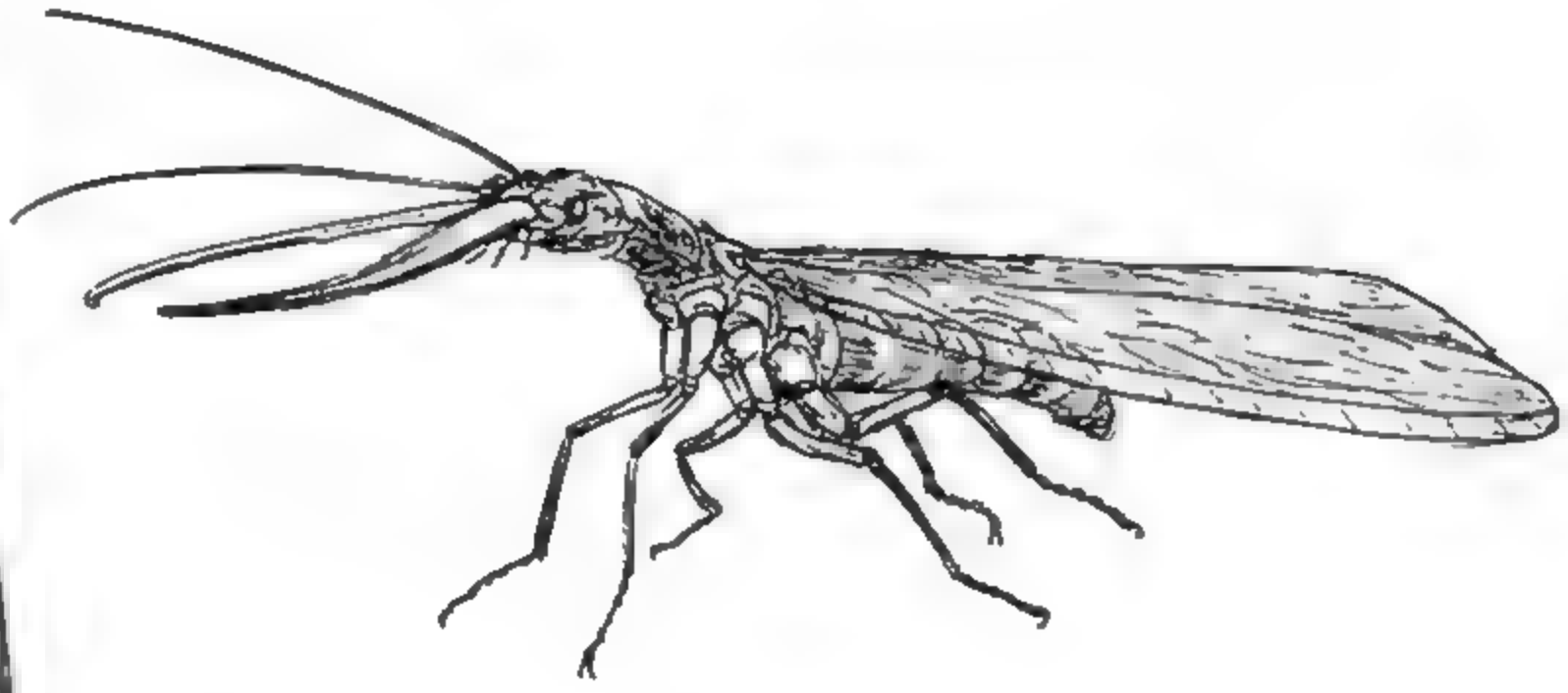
僕は現在までに、数万匹のカブト・クワガタをブリード・採集してきました。そこで蟲たちを大きく育てる秘訣は幼虫に与えるエサではなく、温度管理とエサを効率よく栄養として吸収させてくれる"優れた体内バクテリア"だと実感しました。小さなネブトクワガタの仲間が、シロアリと幼虫が共生することで、シロアリが持つバクテリアの影響で巨大化することが分かっています。

昨今、パンを柔らかく発酵させたり美味しい乳製品を作るために世界中で新しいバクテリアや菌の発見や開発が盛んに行われています。もし、その中に昆虫の呼吸を助けるバクテリアや菌が存在したのなら…睦美がいっていた仮説も少しは納得がいくのではないのでしょうか?

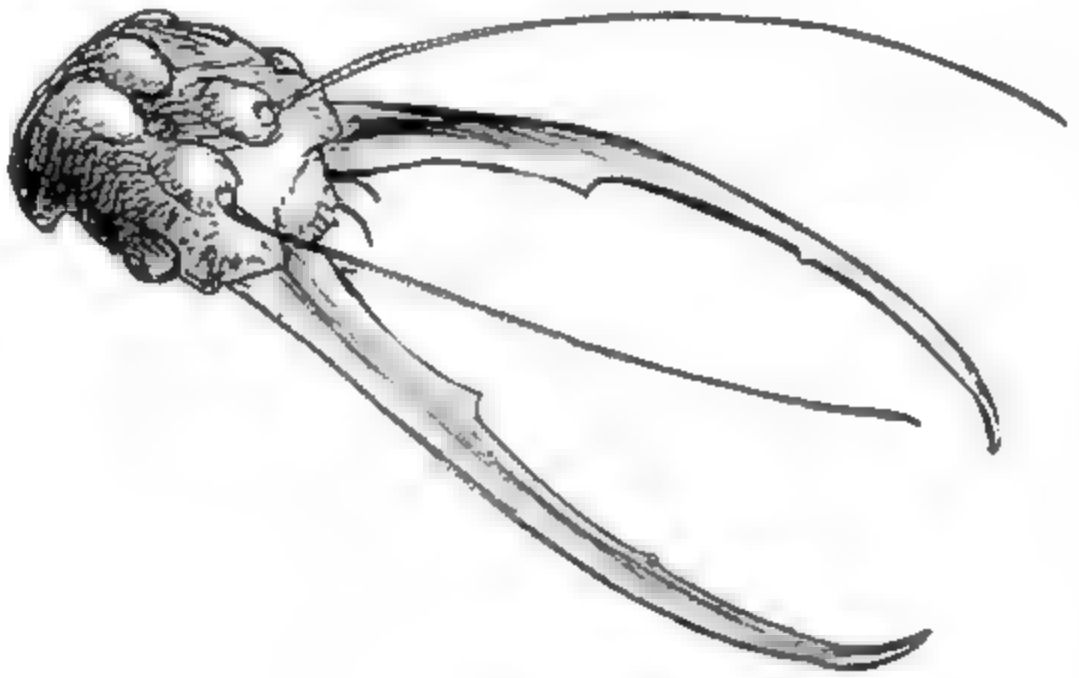


ヘビトンボの恐怖!

今回、巨大化したヘビトンボが、我々には見ることが出来ない光に吸い寄せられて感電死する様を描写しました。10年以上前に、僕が知人の灯火採集(ライトトラップ)に同行したときの話です。近くに小川があったことも手伝い、恐ろしい数のヘビトンボの集団が灯火に集まってきて、そこに居た全員の体中にまとわりつき噛まれ出血しました。とまあ自業自得なのですが、ヘビトンボの走光性と恐怖は身をもって体験しています…(苦笑)。



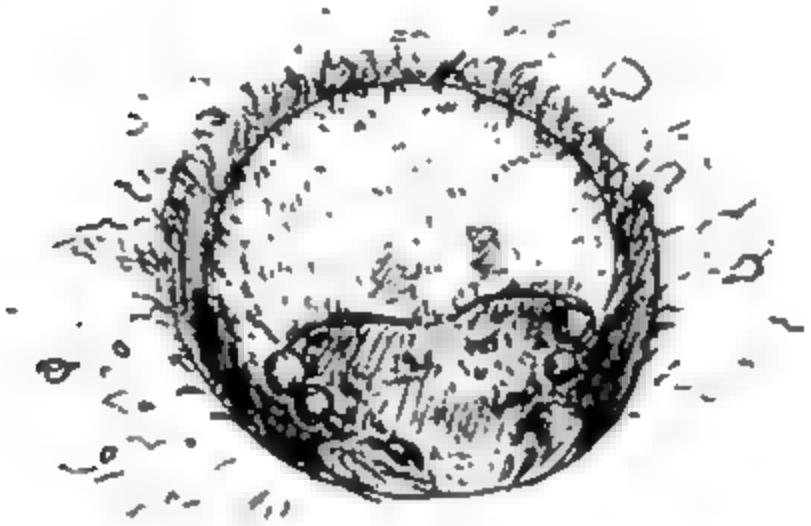
ヘビトンボを巨大化させるにつき参考にしたのは、頭部が中国で発見されたオオアゴが巨大化した種類に国産種の身体をミックスさせました。頭部の変更は、元々ヘビトンボは肉食性ではないのですが高タンパクな樹液などのエサを好むため、巨大化したことにより樹液では足りなくなったエサを動物の体液で補うため切断できるように変化（あえて進化とは言いません）した形状にしてみました。脚は重くなった頭部を支えられるように前脚を頑丈にゴツくアレンジしてみました。昆虫は、カマキリやセミのように前脚だけ目的を持った独自の形をしていることが多いための変更です。

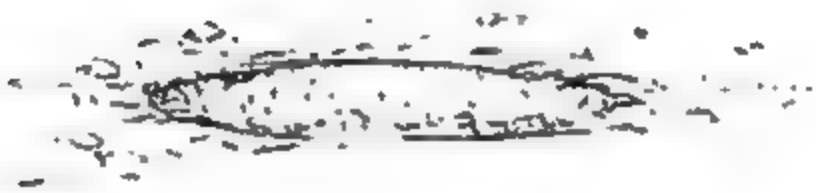


タイガービートル!!

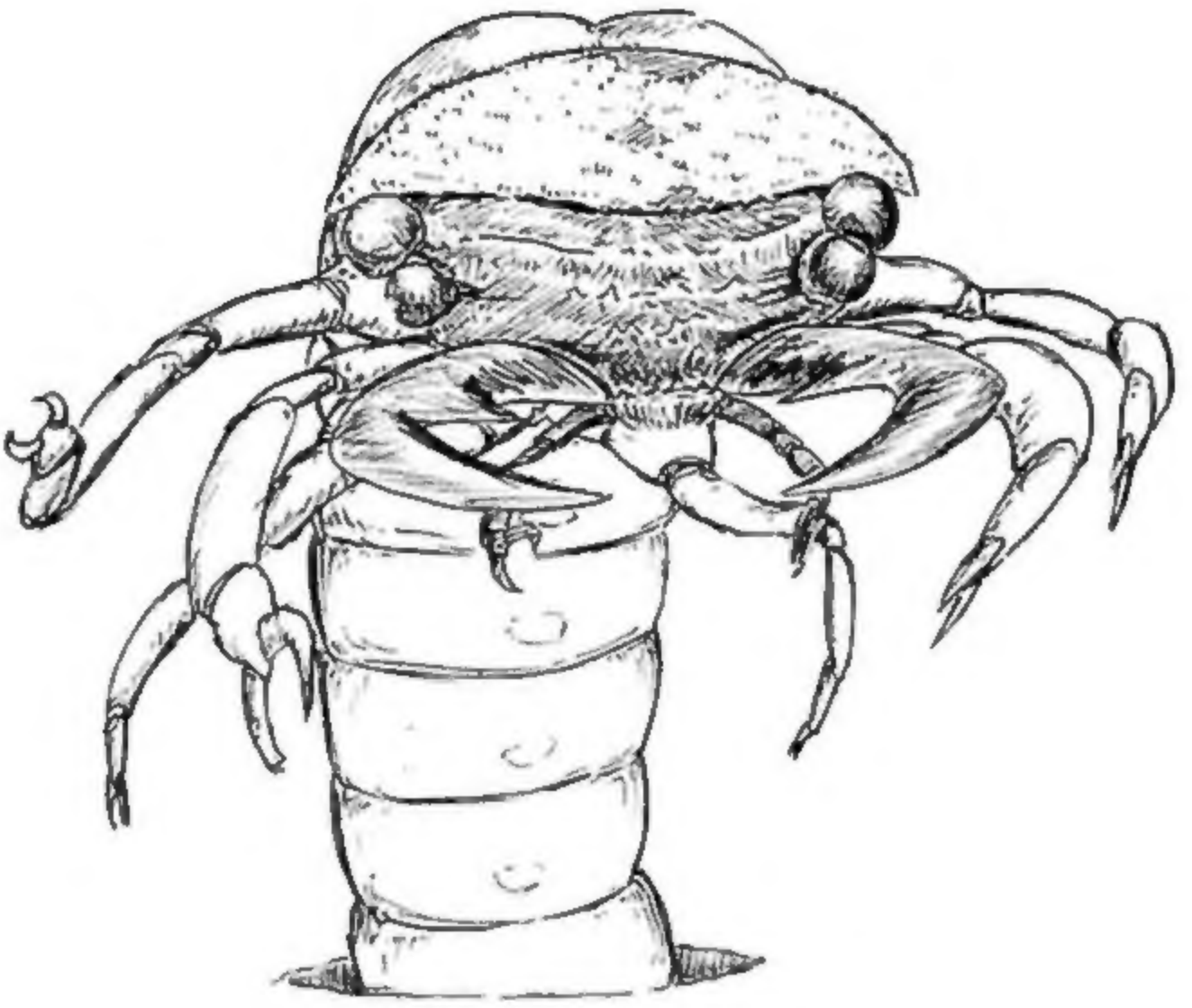
英名が示すように、成虫は高速で移動し獲物を捕食する生粋のハンター！種類によっては、クワガタにも見劣りしないオオアゴを持つ種類も存在します。成虫は、タマムシと並びとても光沢がある美しい昆虫で、見た目からはどう猛な狩りをするとはとても思えないほど。今回の主役は残念ながら幼虫の方で、とても美しいとはいえない風貌をしていますが、成虫にも負けないほどのどう猛で巧妙な狩りをします。

まず獲物が近づくと振動でそれを探知し、巣穴から地面すれすれ状態で頭を出し獲物を待ち構えます。巣穴から出た平たい頭には、カモフラージュの意味もある泥が付いており、さらに頭には単眼・複眼の大小あわせて12個もの眼が付いています。この眼をフルに使い、巣穴に潜った状態で360度の世界を見渡すことが出来ます。巣穴は縦穴トラップとも言われていますが、地面に擬態した幼虫自らが積極的に行動して捕食するという意味で、その行動は「トラップ」というより他の肉食虫同様に「襲いかかる」といった表現の方が適切なのかもしれません。





今回、巨大化することにより変更した点は、幼虫の背中にある巣穴から引きずり出されないために付いているかぎ爪を、あくまで巨蟲化する前の名残として小形化させました。巨蟲化することにより鳥類などの外敵が居なくなったことで、巣穴から引きずり出されないようにすることよりも、より遠くの獲物を狙えるようにジャンプ力を付けていくように変化していく過程のイメージです。もし、次にハンミョウの幼虫が出てきた場合、



狩りをもっと効率的にするために、他の肉食虫を参考にして形状を変化させているかもしれません。

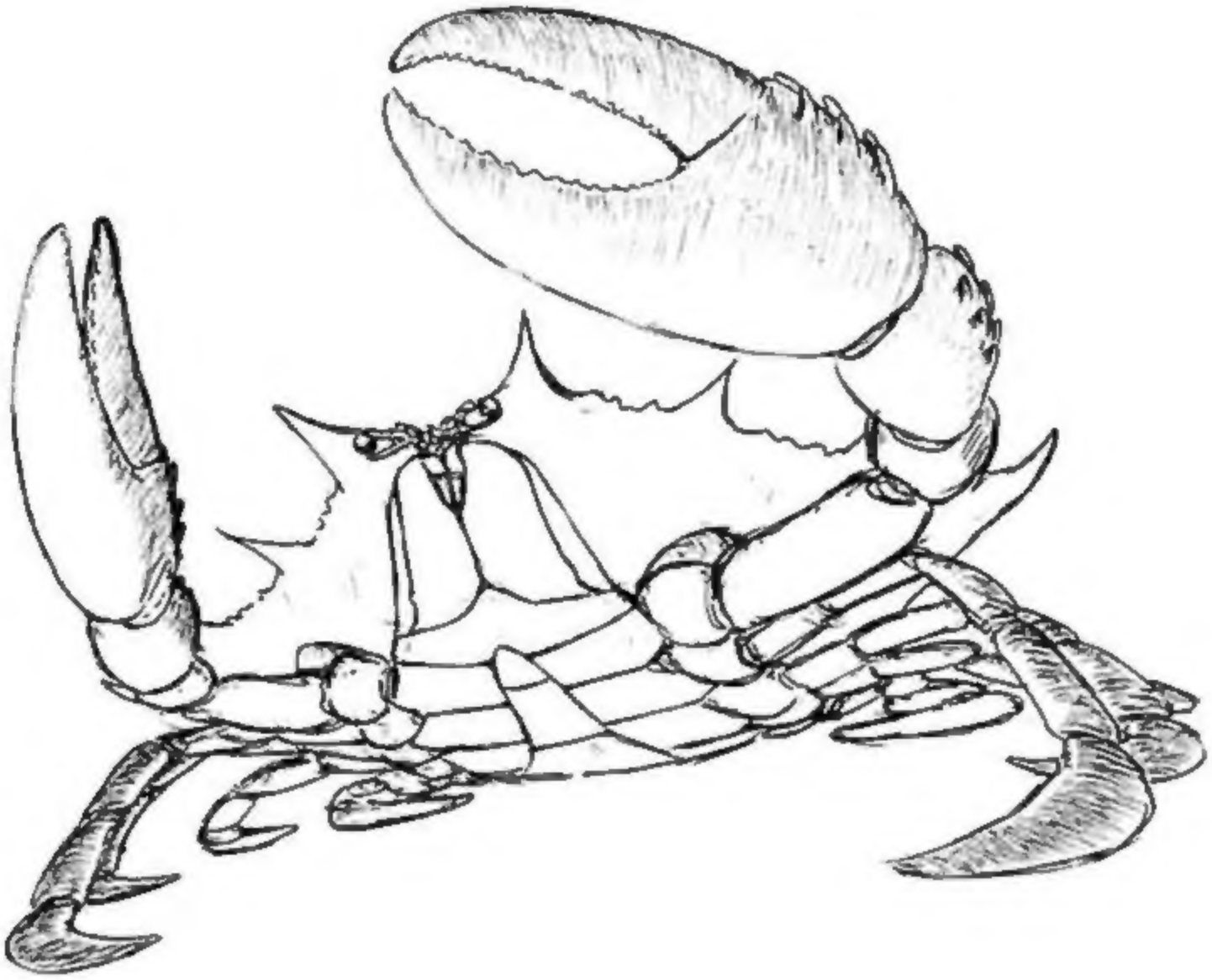
一ついえるのは、次回は竹で作った刀は通用しないかな?(笑)

最後に甲殻類。

今回は施設内でワタリガニの仲間であるガザミの大群が大暴れしましたが、甲殻類は非常に昆虫に近い存在です。

甲殻類は、元々ある程度巨大化する生き物です。幼生から成体にかけて大きく形状変化しますが、それ以後はむしろ巨大化しても見た目の大きな変化はありません。しかし、ソレでは面白くないのでむしろクワガタなどの戦いをする昆虫を参考に、巨大化させることで武器に突起物を付けたり、戦いに特化する方向でハサミを大形化し、甲羅のトゲも大きくし数を増やしてみました。

1巻で睦美は大きなフジツボとカメノテを食べていましたが、これも甲殻類です。甲殻類の水中に住んでいる種類は、えら呼吸をすることで巨大化することを地球(神)から許された種族です。そして、昆虫は巨大化することが許されなかった種族……。
これらの現実に存在する蟲や甲殻類は"榎先生のフィールドノート"に任せて、巨蟲達は僕の妄想の中で、よりリアリティーを追求しながら納得がいく答えを出したいと思っております。



最後に、2巻から新たなメンバーと合流してピリピリした、空気が張り裂けそうな展開になってきました! 自分だけが助かればいいと思っている者…協力しなければ助からないと思っている者…。それぞれの思惑が絡みます。これからも蟲たちが巨大化した謎と、睦美達が生き残るため、建前ではない本性をむき出しの人間関係の中でのサバイバルに期待して下さいっ!!

【STUFF】
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